(ii) The average cost of maintenance of a rural telephone will depend upon terrain and its location may range from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 20000/- per annum.

(iii) The public telephones in Panchayat villages are being provided with STD facility progressively wherever feasible. Such telephones are likely to become financially viable with increased usage by the villagers by the end of 8th Plan period.

Malfunctioning of Telephones in Hubli

*178. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of Cross-Bar and overaged Strowger Exchanges, the telephones in Hubli are malfunctioning; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to replace these equipments with Automatic Exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a). However 1500 lines of strowger exchange which have completed life are being replaced by electronic exchange by March, 1994.

दूरदर्शन धारावाहिकों को स्वीकृति

*179. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या धारावाहिक पुनरीक्षा समिति की बैठक में अस्वीकृत किए गए दूरदर्शन धारावाहिक उक्त समिति को पुन: प्रस्तुत करके स्वीकृत कराए जा सकते हैं : –

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) ऐसे धारावाहिकों का ब्यौरा क्या है जिन्हें गत एक वर्ष के दौरान पहली बार अस्वीकृत कर दिया गया लेकिन बाद में इन्हें मंजूरी दे दी गई ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० पी० सिंह देव) :

(क) और (ख) जी, नहीं। उक्त स्कीम में उन प्रस्तावों को पुन: समीक्षा का प्रावधान नहीं है जिन्हें नामंजूर कर दिया गया है।

(ग) इस प्रकार का कोई मामला नहीं हुआ है।

Problems of Employees in Ancillary Telecommunication Units

@ 1367. SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several thousand employees in small and medium indigenous ancillary telecommunication units are on the verge of losing their jobs as they were laid off consequent to the financial burden imposed on these units;

(b) whether this financial crunch is the result of the placing of order by-DOT direct with foreign suppliers in lieu of these indigenous units for the last six months; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that workers of such indigenous units do not lose their jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b).

Vacation of Residential Premises Occupied by MTNL in Bombay

1368. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decisions to vacate some residential premises being occupied by the

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@ Previously unstarred Question 352, Transferred from 6th December, 1993.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Bombay in 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the premises being occupied by MTNL in Khar area of Bombay, has not been handed over to the owners for more than a year even after clear orders by Government; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons thereafter and by when the premises in Khar area will be handed over to the owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) It was agreed in 1992 to vacate the Kalpana Building, occupied by MTNL Bombay, in Khar area provided some suitable alternate accommodation became available.

(c) and (d) It has not been possible to vacate the above building for want of suitable alternate accommodation. Efforts are continuing to find a suitable alternate accommodation and as soon as the same becomes available, the premises occupied by MTNL, Bombay in the above building will be released.

Facilities in Rural Post Offices in Punjab, U.P. and Bihar

1369. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of Post Offices located in various villages in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where P.C.O. telegramms and savings bank facilities are available;

(b) whether Government propose to provide these facilities in all rural Post Offices in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) District-wise details of post offices in Uttar Pradesh where Savings Bank facility is available is given in the statement (*See* below). Details of post offices having Savings Bank facility in Punjab and Bihar and those having P.C.O. and telegraph facilities in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) There is no separate programme to provide telephone facility in post offices. However, it is proposed to provide public telephone facility in all the Panchayat villages in the country progressively by 31-3-95 subject to availability of resources. These public telephones are to be located at panchayat headquarters post offices, grocers' shops of other suitable places easily accessible to the public.

Statement

District-wise number of post offices located in various villages in U. P. where savings Bank facilities are available

Region	Having Savings Bank facilities.
1	2
Bareilly Region	
Bareilly	148
Nainital	227
Pilibhit	128
Moradabad	290
Rampur	105
Badaun	227
Shahjahanpur	259
Kheri	245
Hardoi	263
Almora	439
Pithoragarh	266
TOTAL	2697
Agra Region	
Agra	250
Aligarh	415
Bulandshahr	330
Etah	283
Firozabad	609
Orai	215
Jhansi	166
Mainpuri	154
Mathura	203
Lalitpur	140
TOTAL :	3033